United Nations S/2013/62

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 January 2013
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 28 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

The speech on the crisis in Syria delivered by President Bashar Al-Assad on 6 January 2013 provides ample scope for a political solution. The speech is grounded in the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012. It sets out a realistic basis for a solution to the events in Syria and reflects the fundamental elements that should underlie any such solution.

The President of the Syrian Arab Republic has requested the Syrian Government to put in place mechanisms and measures to implement the political programme to resolve the crisis. A ministerial working group chaired by the Prime Minister has been formed. It is comprised of eight ministers whose purviews include national dialogue and reconciliation and humanitarian issues. The Prime Minister has requested the competent Government authorities to meet intensively in order to expedite emergency measures to mitigate the impact of the events, particularly the damage caused by terrorist sabotage of facilities, and to reconstruct the energy and water infrastructure, provide consumer goods, control the economic situation, adopt decisions to assist and compensate those affected by the crisis, and address the plight of displaced persons in the country and abroad.

The political programme states that an end to violence is a priority for genuine action towards national dialogue, reconciliation and reconstruction. It stresses that all States and regional and international actors should undertake to cease or refrain from arming, funding or harbouring armed groups; that all armed groups should immediately cease violence; and that the Army and Armed Forces should undertake to end military operations. The programme also provides that the access of humanitarian aid to those who need it should be facilitated; that work to restore the infrastructure should begin; that compensation should be paid to those affected; that Syrian citizens who left because of the events should receive the necessary guarantees; that their return through border crossings should be facilitated; and that all Syrian opposition forces should receive guarantees in order to enter the country, remain there and depart without hindrance with a view to participating in the national dialogue.

13-21949 (E) 290113 290113

Please recycle

In implementation of the political programme, and after the ministerial working group had considered the necessary guarantees for Syrian citizens who left because of the events, the Ministry of the Interior issued a call on 24 January 2012 for all Syrian citizens who left the national territory because of the events to return to Syria, irrespective of whether they left lawfully or unlawfully and of any proceedings in place against them. It stated that the competent authorities would do everything necessary to facilitate the process and address the status of undocumented persons at border centres.

The Ministry of the Interior has issued instructions stating that all Syrian opposition forces outside Syrian territory that wish to participate in national dialogue may enter the country, irrespective of the documents in their possession. It has committed to taking every measure to facilitate the process and address their situation through the border centres.

Acting on a decision of the ministerial working group, the Ministry of Justice has taken measures to expedite the processing of cases involving the current events and to release anyone who has not been convicted. The Ministry will put in place mechanisms to regularize the situation of any individuals who lay down their weapons and hand them over to the competent authorities. Such individuals will not be prosecuted in that connection. On 27 January 2013, the Higher Council of the Judiciary issued decision No. 15 suspending any judicial proceedings against any opposition political forces and personalities participating in the national dialogue.

As regards humanitarian issues, the Higher Relief Commission has been requested to provide humanitarian assistance and facilitate its access to those who need it, in cooperation with civil society initiatives, the institutions of the international community and the relevant international organizations within and beyond Syria. The Commission adopted decisions to strengthen the role of the Syrian Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross in providing essential assistance to affected families that settled outside the country, and to work with those families in order to bring them back to their home country with provisions for all of their fundamental needs.

The Syrian State is now in a position to work towards realizing the political programme on the ground. In the next few days, we shall inform the Security Council of other measures that will be taken. Syria trusts that the international community and the United Nations will help to ensure that the political programme and the Government's efforts to implement it are understood, and that they will assist in its implementation without preconditions for the sake of the stability of Syria and the preservation of international peace and security in the Middle East and the world.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative